

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the existing title, beginning on line 3 of page 1, with the following new title:

COMBUSTION AIR SHUTOFF APPARATUS FOR A FUEL-FIRED HEATING APPLIANCE

Please replace the present "CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION" section beginning on line 8 of page 1 with the following new section:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a division of copending U.S. application serial no. 10/200,234, filed on July 22, 2002 and entitled "FUEL-FIRED HEATING APPLIANCE WITH COMBUSTION CHAMBER TEMPERATURE-SENSING COMBUSTION AIR SHUTOFF SYSTEM", which in turn was a continuation-in-part of copending U.S. application serial no. 09/801,551 filed on March 8, 2001 (now U.S. Patent 6,497,200), the full disclosures of such prior applications being hereby incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 8 of page 11 with the following amended paragraph:

The lower end of a solid cylindrical metal rod portion 98 of a fusible link temperature sensing structure 100 extends downwardly into the raised portion 90, through a suitable opening in its upper end. An annular lower end ledge 102 (see FIG. 2) on the rod 98 prevents the balance of the rod 98 from moving downwardly into the interior of the raised damper

member portion 90. Just above the ledge [68] 102 (see FIG. 2) are diametrically opposite, radially outwardly extending projections 104 formed on the rod 98. During normal operation of the water heater 10, the damper plate member 88 is held in its solid line position by the rod 98, as shown in FIG. 2, in which the damper plate 88 is downwardly offset from and uncovers the bottom pan wall opening 62, with the spring 92 resiliently biasing the damper plate member 88 upwardly toward the bottom pan wall opening 62. When the fusible link temperature sensing structure 100 is thermally tripped, as later described herein, it permits the spring 92 to upwardly drive the damper plate member 88 to its dotted line closed position (see FIG. 2), as indicated by the arrows 106 in FIG. 2, in which the damper plate member 88 engages the bottom pan wall 60 and closes off the opening 62 therein, thereby terminating further air flow into the combustion chamber 18 as later described herein.